

Punta Gorda, in Tropical Southwest Florida, is Advantageously Located on Charlotte Harbor, One of the Largest Land-Locked Bays on the Gulf of Mexico, and is a Town with a Bright Future, Commercially and Agriculturally

COMMISSION CONSIDERING NEW LIGHTING CONTRACT

Utilities Co. Offer Lower Rate on Ten Year Contract But Want More on Short Term

Discussion and consideration of a proposed new contract with the Southern Utilities Co. to furnish the city electricity was taken up at the regular meeting of the City Commission Tuesday night, but no final agreement was reached.

The city is now using about 11,500 kilowatts a month at a rate of 7c per kilowatt for the first 3,000, and 6½ cents for all over 3,000. Mr. Sikes, representing the utilities company, was present and offered to enter into a new contract to furnish current for a period of ten years at 6c per kilowatt for the first 15,000 kilowatts and 5c per kilowatt for all current used in excess of 15,000 a month. This rate would represent a considerable saving over that in force now, but the commissioners do not seem to favor a contract running for a period of ten years. The utilities company offered to contract to furnish current for a five year period at rates 20 percent higher than for a ten year period. Commissioner Jordan moved to accept the utilities proposition, but his motion as made did not receive a second. Commissioner Seward moving to amend Jordan's motion by instructing the attorney and manager to have a contract drawn up to be presented at the next meeting of the commission for further consideration. This motion was carried.

The manager reported that he had an offer from Judge W. F. Cooper to sell the city 10 acres of land for a needed addition to the cemetery at \$523, the city to pay for survey and abstract. This price is just what Judge Cooper paid for the land a number of years ago with the legal rate of interest added and his offer is regarded as a very liberal one, inasmuch as Judge Cooper is asking no profit on the land and offered to sell it to the town and wait for the money as long as the town might wish to owe him. The city manager was instructed to proceed to have the land surveyed and have drawn up the papers necessary to consummate the deal.

The city manager reported that since the county had quit using the city's jail he had had the jail put in good condition and asked advice as to what to charge the county for its use should it desire to do so in future. It was the consensus of opinion that the jail should be run along the lines of a hotel, with the chief of police as the manager, and that a day charge should be made for each prisoner kept there. If the county's guests should stay one day, the idea was, a transient rate should be charged; if a guest of the county stayed for a considerable time, a lower rate should be allowed. However, this was left up to the manager and chief of police to decide, and the city manager was instructed to collect each month for its use, if it is used, and not to allow it to be used if the monthly bills are not paid.

TOURIST CLUB MEETS

Attendance Was Large and Meeting Was an Enjoyable One

The Tourist club has a splendid meeting Tuesday evening. The hall was comfortably filled and entertainment good.

In absence of Mrs. Goldie, Judge Parker presided. The secretary's report showed a large number of both new members and old ones had enrolled for the season. After the business meeting the program committee treated to a good entertainment. The glee club gave a song before the business session as was requested by Acting President Parker, then started the regular entertainment with another song.

Misses Chadwick and Crosland gave a piano duet; Mr. Andrews gave a very interesting talk on his native country, Denmark, which was also instructive; Mrs. D'Arcy and Miss Williams gave a piano duet; the glee club quartet sang "Old Uncle Ned"; Col. Stewart told a couple of stories; Mr. and Mrs. D'Arcy gave a mandolin and guitar duet and courteously responded with an encore.

Mrs. Topper, chairman, and her committee deserve thanks for the programs they have started our entertainment with.

Ladies, don't forget your needlework club meets every Wednesday afternoon at the hall from two to five o'clock. This is your weekly get-together meeting. If you run

short of sewing notify the men next Tuesday evening.

We are glad to announce that at Mr. Placier's request on behalf of the glee club song books will be purchased by the club. We have been short of books, but this will insure enough to go around and any one desiring to may purchase one from the club at cost.

A cordial invitation awaits all tourists to join the club and citizens of Punta Gorda are also invited to the same privilege. The small membership fee of fifty cents will buy you more pleasure and entertainment and fellowship than any fifty cents that you will ever spend elsewhere. —Secretary.

MILITARY MANEUVERS TO BE FEATURE AT THE FAIR

South Florida Fair and Gasparilla Carnival Opens at Tampa on February First

Something new and unusual in the way of entertainment features has been provided by the fair management for the opening day of the great South Fair and Gasparilla Carnival to be held on Feb. 1 to 10, 1923. On Feb. 1, the opening day, the Tampa battalion, 116th Field Artillery, National Guard, is to be in charge. The battalion is to present an exhibition drill and artillery maneuvers inside the big ring enclosure, and arrangements also are being made to stage a realistic sham battle, during which many of the evolutions of field artillery in action will be illustrated. The drill, sham battle, etc., will be preceded by a parade of the entire battalion through the down town section of Tampa. This will be the first time that Tampans and visitors from all over the State will have had an opportunity to see the newly organized battalion in action, and the drill, etc., is certain to prove as interesting and instructive as it is thrilling.

Juvenile Party

A delightful party of children gathered at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. D'Arcy last Saturday, the 16th, in honor of the ninth birthday of their only daughter, Patricia. The house was tastefully decorated by Miss Helen Grunwell, a friend of the family. About 20 children came with suitable presents to the honoree and enjoyed the happy occasion with her. After lively games on the lawn and quieter ones in the parlor, cake and ice cream were served and enjoyed by all present. The youthful guests then returned to their homes wishing their hostess many returns of the happy occasion.

DON'T BURN THE WOODS; CAUSES A SERIOUS LOSS

Forest fires destroy in a few minutes that which months, years and decades grew, and that which to the farmer is worth many carloads of the very best fertilizers.

Still there are many farmers and friends of farmers who see no particular harm in applying a match to heavy growths of woods grass and undergrowth. Little do these persons realize that this heavy growth of grass and undergrowth (if not destroyed) will in the long run provide cattle, sheep and other grazing animals with more nutriment than will the constantly burnt-over woods. And little do they think of the terrible destruction of young trees, the source of future lumber and naval stores, when they apply the match.

Scientists and practical farmers tell us that the one greatest need of Florida soils is humus. Then it seems nothing less than waste to destroy this humus so often and so needlessly. Instead of destroying it, we should make every effort to protect and conserve it.

In consideration of the timber phase of this question of "burning the woods," Professor W. L. Floyd, of the Florida College of Agriculture, says, "The future of Florida's forests, especially her cut-over lands, is uncertain. They may be made to produce continuously crops of timber. As the supply decreases and the demand increases, prices will soar, and therein is seen our duty to posterity to protect the future of our lumber industry. There is no better way of doing this than by refraining from 'burning the woods.'"

"The only time 'burning the woods' is justifiable is when it is done to destroy pests harbored in and protected by the grass and underbrush. The occasion for this, however, is the exception rather than the rule, and it should be done under most careful control precautions."

Gravity is six times as great on the earth as on the moon.

CHRISTMAS poem by UNCLE JOHN

WHILE the general run of holidays is merry in their way, there's nothin' quite so joyous as the good, old Christmas day. There's charms about Thanksgiving that a feller can't deny—and there's forty sorts of thunder in the Fourth of July. . . . Then, we can't ignore our birthdays, though they roll around too fast, which sets a man to figgerin' mebbe which will be the last. . . . Till early in December, as the statement strikes yer eye, that to do yer shoppin' early is the safest way to buy. . . . Then the children ketch the spirit, either fust or second-hand—O, it's heaven—or mighty nigh it—when "Old Santa" leads the band! . . . And we dream of basted turkey every time we shet our eyes, and the dresin' and cranberries—an' the mince-meat in the pies! . . . Shucks! I ain't got style to write it—nor the fittin' words to tell of my fond anticipations of the merry Christmas bell. . . . Every heart is playin' music, aged or youthful—great or small. . . . Seems like persiflage to holler, "MERRY CHRISTMAS, ONE AND ALL!"



MAYOR BANS DANCING ON STREETS, BUT LIFTS LID

Dances Will Not be Allowed in Marian Avenue But May be Held in Taylor Street

Considerable discussion pro and con was heard early this week when it became known that Mayor Carleton had decreed that dancing in the streets would no longer be permitted. Recently the local band has been giving a dance in the street each Friday evening, and these affairs have been largely attended by the younger fry and by people who came to watch the dancing and hear the music. Monday Mayor Carleton gave notice that dancing in the street would no longer be permitted. Just what objection there had been raised to the street dances aside from the fact that they made the use of the main street rather inconvenient is not known, but some say that there had been objection based upon the presumption that dancing is improper. Mayor Carleton indicated that his chief objection was based upon the ground that the dances hindered traffic and might be the cause of accidents.

At the meeting of the City Commission Tuesday night the matter was brought up and caused considerable discussion. City Commissioners Seward and Jordan could see no harm in the dances and Mayor-Commissioner Carleton expressed no disapproval of dancing but did object to the use of the main thoroughfare for this purpose. City Manager Price was inclined to think that to stop the dances altogether would be a mistake and a great discouragement to the band and suggested that dancing be permitted in Taylor street between Marian avenue and Retta Esplanade and said that if lights were necessary the town could install them. This seemed to be an agreeable solution of the question, Mayor Carleton agreeing to permit dancing there, where it will not interfere with traffic, so it was agreed that in future dancing in the street must be confined to this portion of Taylor St.

P. O. Hours Sunday and Xmas

Postmaster Mizell says that his work has been greatly lightened by the co-operation of the public in mailing packages early instead of waiting until the last minute as is usual, and to show his appreciation he is going to give the public some extra service Sunday and Monday, the latter day being Christmas. On Sunday the office will be open from 7 to 10 a. m. and on Christmas day from 8 to 10 a. m. and for one hour after distribution of noon mail. Although it is not required, in fact is against postoffice rules, parcel post packages will be received and delivered on Sunday and on Christmas day during the hours mentioned.

Sunday School Christmas Trees

The children of the Sunday schools of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches will each have a Christmas tree at their respective church tomorrow (Saturday) evening. There will be appropriate exercises at each church.

Roman dentists filled teeth with gold as early as 500 B. C.

ESTIMATED VALUE BUILDING FOR YEAR IS \$100,000.00

New Building Less Than for 1921 But Additions and Alterations Probably More

The total value of building in Punta Gorda for the year 1922 is conservatively estimated to total in value at least \$100,000, this amount including new building, repairs, alterations and additions to old buildings. New building was less in 1922 than in 1921, but there was more repair work, more alterations and additions.

New building for the year is estimated to be worth a minimum of \$65,000. Included in this estimate is buildings now under construction, but no repair jobs or additions costing less than \$500 are included in this estimate. Small additions, repairs and alterations, it is estimated, will bring the total value to \$100,000 or over. This takes no account of building at Cleveland or anywhere outside the incorporation, where there has been a considerable amount of construction.

Four new residences are now under construction, one for W. W. Knight, one for E. L. Enggren, one for J. L. Johnson, and one for J. H. Howard. These are included in the estimate. During the year residences have been built for Mrs. Yeager, two for the Messrs. Griggs, the Baptist minister, and while it cannot be called a new house, strictly speaking Dr. Grunwell finished during the year one of the handsomest residences in the town. Building for business purposes include the Locklear garage, the Jackson buildings, the Willis building, the Quednau filling station, the Dreggers warehouse and the new city dock. While it is likely that some new residences and other new buildings are not mentioned above, most of the other building was in the nature of repairs, alterations or additions. Several such jobs were large ones, as for instance the remodeling or rebuilding of the old Inn, by Chadwick brothers, and involved a considerable outlay of money. Outside the town there has been a considerable amount of building and so far as known every carpenter in this section has worked every week day in the year.

Entertainment at Aclene

There will be a Christmas entertainment at the Aclene school house tonight (Friday) by the children of the Aclene Sunday school and public school, under the direction of Miss Inez Rowland, teacher of the Aclene school. The program will consist of songs, recitations and dialogues, and there will be a Christmas tree. Everybody is invited.

Conference Appointments

The Florida annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, closed its session in Tampa on Monday, when the bishop read the assignments of ministers for 1923, amongst which the following are of local interest: Rev. Howard Dutil, pastor of the Punta Gorda church for the past year, is sent to Wauchula, and is succeeded here by Rev. J. E. Shepherd. T. J. Nixon and M. H. Norton, former presiding elders of the Bartow district, become, the for-

mer the presiding elder of the Tampa district and the latter the pastor in charge of Hyde Park church, Tampa. E. J. Gates remains as presiding elder of this (Bartow) district. G. W. Rosenberry goes to Dixieland church, Lakeland. A. H. Cole, son of a former pastor at Punta Gorda, will serve the Riverside church, Miami; O. E. Rice, DeLand. Rev. J. E. Shepherd, who is assigned to Punta Gorda, is said to be a younger man than his predecessor, blessed with "pep" and an abundance of energy as well as with the gospel spirit; and, from all that has been heard locally, he will be very acceptable to the members of the church which he is to serve.

WORK TO START SOON ON GRADE OF ROAD NO. FIVE

Big Dredge Will be Used to Throw Up Grade and Dig Sixteen Foot Ditch

According to the Fort Myers newspapers, work on Lee county's end of the short route road between Punta Gorda and Fort Myers is to be started in the next few days. Work will start at the Caloosahatchee river and will be pushed as rapidly as possible to the Lee-Charlotte county line, a distance of eight miles. The grade will be completed within three and a half or four months, according to H. C. Edwards, who has the contract for the grading.

A big dredge that has been in use in the Iona drainage district of Lee county will be moved across the river and as soon as it is in the proper location, work will begin in earnest. The grade will be constructed with a 16-foot drainage ditch on one side and an adequate ditch on the other side. It is to be surfaced with local rock and marl.

Reports from Lee county since the visit of Mr. Green to Fort Myers, when he told the people there that the State Road Department was going to concentrate its efforts on State Road Number Five as one of four main projects, indicate that the two factions that have been warring for the past two or three years over roads five and two have signed an armistice and both are now working in harmony for road five, although an effort is still being made to secure the quick completion of road two. These reports indicate, too, that Lee county is now awake to the importance of finishing her part of the Tamiami trail through the everglades to join up with Dade county's road, which is now nearing completion and it is predicted that within a year it will be possible to make the trip through the everglades over the trail.

MANY PRIZES WON BY FLORIDA EXPERIMENT STATION CATTLE

Money won on every individual animal entered and 21 ribbons awarded to 18 head of cattle, that was the record of the cattle entered at the recent State Fair in Jacksonville from the University of Florida Experiment Station, according to a statement issued by John M. Scott, animal industrialist.

The awards were: One grand champion, seven firsts, seven seconds, and six thirds. These 21 prizes were won by 18 animals, all of which, without exception, brought away money from the fair.

The placings were as follows:

Jersey Herd—Grand champion cow, senior champion bull, senior champion cow, first prize for bull over three and under four years, first and third for cow over four years, first for cow over three and under four years, first and second for heifer over two and under three years, first for herd, second for calf herd, second for get of sire, and second and third for produce of cow.

Holstein Herd—First for junior yearling bull.

Hereford Herd—Second for yearling bull, and third for junior yearling heifer.

Aberdeen-Angus Herd—Second for two-year-old bull, and first and third for fat steers.

The cow, Majesty's Noble Lassie (492336), which won the grand championship, was bred and raised on the Experiment Station farm, as were all of the 18 except one.

Professor Scott expressed himself as being highly pleased with the awards and the distinction won by this experimental herd. When asked to explain the sweeping success of the herd he answered "Good blood and good feed tell the story."

Episcopal Christmas Services

The service at the Episcopal church on Christmas day will be at nine o'clock a. m. All welcome.

CHANNEL PROJECT TURNED DOWN; HERE'S 'REASON'

Engineers Think Punta Gorda Ought to be Able to Use Fort Myers as a Port

As was announced several weeks ago, the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, at Washington, would not approve or recommend an appropriation for improvement of the local port by dredging an extension to the present channel. This was after a favorable report had been made by the district engineer and after the town had accepted a proposition made by the government to aid in the proposed improvement.

Several reasons have been given for their refusal to recommend an appropriation. The latest one is explained in the letter which follows which was written to Senator Fletcher by the Board of Engineers and copies sent to the Herald and others here who are interested in improvement of the town's port facilities. The letter is dated December 12 and is signed by G. R. Young, Major, Corps of Engineers.

"Your letter of the 9th instant relative to the proposed improvement of Charlotte Harbor, Fla., has been received. The board will be pleased to comply with your wishes by delaying final consideration of this matter for a reasonable time to afford opportunity for gathering additional data.

"The letter of December 1st, from the Punta Gorda Commercial Club, to which you refer, is presumably the same one which was sent to this office. In replying thereto we requested the club for such additional information as might be readily available concerning the number, draft and capacity of the vessels in the line now running between Tampa and Fort Myers, and any other pertinent information regarding the operations of this line.

"The principal reasons for the unfavorable view taken by the board are contained in the 3rd and 4th paragraphs of the notice of November 6, 1922, which was sent to all interested parties. It is probable that you were furnished with a copy, but for your convenience I am enclosing another copy herewith. It may be stated in addition that the board gave consideration to the close proximity to Punta Gorda of Fort Myers, which already has a 12 foot channel to its wharves, and which serves much the same territory as Punta Gorda; from which it might be assumed that further expenditure by the government is hardly justified on an additional port of the same character so close to Fort Myers. Any data bearing upon the above points would be of value in reaching a conclusion, and will be given the most careful consideration by the Board."

The first strawberries of the season to appear in this market were brought in Tuesday by the grower, Captain M. L. Curry of Harbor View, and sold readily for seventy-five cents a quart. Captain Curry expects to bring in some more tomorrow.

BOLL WEEVIL CONTROL

Plant Board's Announcement Elicits Keen and General Interest

Few developments in the agricultural fields have aroused as much interest as the announcement a short time ago of the development of a very satisfactory and cheap method of controlling the boll weevil in fields of upland cotton grown under Florida conditions.

Both state and government officials have commented most favorably upon the simplicity and the apparent importance of the method developed by the State Plant Board. The officers of the Plant Board and the Experiment Station at Gainesville have been nearly swamped with requests for the bulletin describing this method. Information already received from various parts of North Florida indicate that the method will be used on thousands of acres of Florida cotton next season.

Ample provision has been made to supply every cotton farmer in Florida with the 72-page bulletin which fully describes the experiments by which this method of controlling the weevil was developed, as well as specific directions for making use of it. Further information may be obtained by writing to the State Plant Board at Gainesville, Florida.

The first dictionary of the Chinese language was compiled about 1100 B. C. It contained about 40,000 characters and hieroglyphics.